

ANSWERING POSTMILLENNIALISM

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The following by John Cereghin is from the May 1996 issue of Maranatha Baptist Watchman, published by the Maranatha Baptist Church, 3141 Old Elk Neck Rd., Elkton, MD 21921. It is the third in a series of articles on this topic which began in the March issue of this paper. If you request back issues, please enclose a gift to cover the costs.

I have in front of me a book entitled Christian Reconstruction: What It Is and What Is Not by Gary DeMar and Gary North. This is a book that is a brief introduction to the very young and unproved Christian Reconstruction movement. The book itself is fraught with errors regarding premillennialism and dispensationalism. For example, I counted 43 errors, misrepresentations and outright lies in just the first 69 pages! This is not great scholarship! (And that isn't all. I found 59 major errors in North's book Rapture Fever.)

Case in point: their treatment of premillennialism. Both North and DeMar are guilty of gross misrepresentation and outright slander as to the origins of this doctrine. Consider some of these choice gems:

"Long before dispensationalism came on the scene in the early nineteenth century..." (page 3).

"The Westminster Assembly's Directory for the Publick Worship of God, published in 1645, nearly 200 years before anyone even heard of dispensational premillennialism..." (pages 3-4).

"Anyone who preaches the imminent rapture also necessarily preaches the near-term massacre of the Jews" (page 4). "They therefore long for the slaughter of the Jews" (page 5)." (Question to you premillennialist preachers--how many of you salivate at the thought of two-thirds of the Jews being killed in the Tribulation? If this isn't malicious slander, then what is?)

"It is obvious that the dispensationalist doctrine of the coming slaughter of the Jews leads inevitably to anti-Semitism" (page 4). (Now how is that dispensationalists are among the strongest supporters of Israel? North and DeMar think they found an answer--see below.)

"We know why dispensationalists support the nation of Israel: self-interest" (page 4). (In other words, the Bible has nothing to do with our support of Israel.)

"Dispensationalism had its beginnings in the late 1820s" (page 13).

"As even dispensational scholars admit, the church knew nothing of this doctrine [of the pre-tribulation rapture] until its advocacy by J. N. Darby" (page 13). (This is a gross lie and it

reveals how hypocritical the Reconstructionists are. They readily admit that in 1962 there was no Christian Reconstruction movement (page xi). So I suppose that Christian Reconstruction should be considered a Satanic heresy because it is of such recent origin! Since the early church knew nothing of it and the Reformers knew nothing of it, and no one else knew of it until 1962, at the earliest, then it cannot possibly be true!)

This will have to suffice in our limited space. The problem is this: Christian Reconstructionists simply refuse to believe the facts regarding premillennialism as it is set before them: the Apostle Paul is the author of premillennialism! But to say that the modern proclamation of this ancient truth goes back only to about 1820-1830 is another case of sloppy scholarship. Dr. Don Jasmin, on page 4 of *The Fundamentalist Digest*, (March/April 1996) relates this interesting tidbit:

"For several years, John L. Bray of Florida offered a financial reward to anyone who could prove that the pre-tribulation rapture was taught by anyone prior to 1830. Recently, he had to swallow his pride and cough up the funds, when undisputed evidence was presented documenting that Morgan Edwards, an 18th century Philadelphia-area Baptist preacher taught the pretribulation rapture truth in 1742."

Bray was honest enough to admit his mistake. Will North and DeMar be honest enough to admit to theirs? I wouldn't hold my breath. A word to the wise should be sufficient: keep your words sweet; you may have to eat them!

The issue is this: premillennialism dates back to the Apostle Paul. It was the dominant eschatology until the time of the apostate Origen, who began to promote a form of amillennialism. With the apostasy, the Church fell away from the premillennial hope. [O Timothy Editor's Note: Cereghin is using the term "church" in a generic sense, for he does not consider the Roman Catholic Church to be a true church.] What North and DeMar refuse to tell their readers is that the premillennialists have a raft of Scriptures that prove the truth of a pre-tribulation rapture. They also refuse to admit that J. N. Darby and Margaret Macdonald did not hatch the movement. They must continue to promote these errors because the Reconstructionists need a whipping boy. Biblical Fundamentalism, with its premillennialism, qualifies. Everyone hates Fundamentalists anyway, so North and DeMar simply figure they will pile on since everyone else already is.

As I said, I have found 43 errors in the first 69 pages of this book. That isn't all. I have read North's *Tools of Dominion*, *Leviticus*, *Rapture Fever* and *The Sinai Strategy*, Ray Sutton's *That You May Prosper*, R. J. Rushdoony's *Institutes of Biblical Law* and *Roots of Reconstruction* and DeMar's *God and Government*. I also subscribe to North's newsletters. These same brand of errors abound in all these volumes. We will continue to expose these unwarranted attacks upon the Biblical truth of the premillennial rapture and other doctrines in the months to follow. But we will simply close with this observation: after many hours of reading, research and more reading, it is obvious that North's theology has gone due south!

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